

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-26 and 28-30 are amended and claim 31 is added. No new matter is added.

Support for newly added claim 31 can found in the specification at, for example, original claim 2.

The claims are amended for better clarity and do not narrow the scope thereof.

I. Restriction Requirement

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-23 and 31, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-31 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Claim 31 is based on original claim 2, which has been elected.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 17, 2007

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